

Alaska State Community Service Commission



2005 Annual Report



“Serving Alaskans Together”

Alaska State Community Service Commission

550 W. Seventh Avenue, Suite 1770

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

<http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/ascsc/home.htm>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Governor's Message.....	Inside Cover
Messages.....	1
History of ASCSC.....	2
Commissioners	3
AmeriCorps and Learn & Serve programs....	4,5,6,7
Fiscal Overview.....	8
Snapshots.....	9
Volunteer Awards.....	10
2006 At a Glance.....	11
Photo Album.....	12
Sponsorships.....	13

Our Mission

To foster, support and promote the ethic of service and volunteerism and to engage Alaskans of all ages and backgrounds in tangible, results-oriented community projects.



The Office of
Governor Frank H. Murkowski

January 2006

Dear Alaskan,

The Alaska State Community Service Commission (ASCSC) and the Corporation for National and Community Service work together to actively build a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in Alaska. Each year, ASCSC partners with nonprofits across Alaska to mobilize thousands of volunteers to tackle projects that address the environment, education, public safety, homeland security, and human needs across Alaska.

The commission's primary function is to oversee grants provided to local nonprofit agencies. These agencies play a vital role in growing communities and creating a brighter future for all Alaskans. Literally thousands of lives have been positively touched by the efforts of the commission and partnering agencies and I am proud of the role of every Alaskan involved in this important work.

AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve, VISTA, and Senior Corps are solid organizations that help strengthen our communities. I am proud of the commission's accomplishments, dedication, and commitment. Working together we can continue to foster and promote an ethic of service and volunteerism in our state.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank H. Murkowski".

Frank H. Murkowski
Governor



Loren Leman, Lieutenant Governor

I commend the Alaska State Community Service Commission for promoting volunteerism and community service. These are important ingredients to accomplish the mission of our Faith-Based & Community Initiatives, an effort that is diligently helping Alaskans.

Alaska has tremendous resources and generous people. Yet we also have social challenges. The real answer to many of these challenges is to put hope in hearts and a sense of purpose in lives. This is where the Alaska State Community Service Commission and its many partners are so vital. Whether providing housing for the homeless, food for the hungry, education and job training, or counseling for victims of crime or those bound by addictions—or perhaps most important, just being a friend—encouraged by the Commission, people are helping people.

I have enjoyed swearing in new AmeriCorps members, recognizing outstanding volunteers, addressing the Commission and working with your executive director, Elsa Sargento and staff. We can justifiably celebrate what we have accomplished, but let's recommit to do even more this next year!

Mac Carter, Chair

Have you volunteered lately? That question, believe-it-or-not is one that needs your attention. The Alaska State Community Service Commission works on a day-to-day basis to ensure continued support of many volunteers.

Without the dedication and support of the many groups that exist in Alaska today, opportunities for many would be lost. Every program adds value and needs life changing direction for people of all ages.

It is through this volunteer arena that people develop and learn, even the basic skills to survive in today's world. We cannot exist today without people involved in adding value to other people's lives.

I hope you will join the many volunteers statewide by celebrating and getting involved in your community organizations, State supported organizations, local school or place of worship. The rewards are many. You will become enriched with a brighter level of self worth, which will far out way anything you have ever done in life.



Elsa Sargento, Executive Director

I am pleased to present to you the Alaska State Community Service Commission's 2005 Annual Report. This annual report provides us an opportunity to share where our journey has taken us, what we are dedicated to, how that dedication transformed into work accomplished and how that work affected the community and the State.

As Executive Director, I am so blessed working with eighteen governor appointed ASCSC Commissioners in providing strong leadership for volunteerism and community service in our state. I have seen exemplary commitment from the tireless staff, program directors and commission members amidst budget limitations, taking the commission to a higher level of service for the Alaskan people. From the AmeriCorps Members themselves, I have seen lives literally changed overnight- people with a purpose to shoulder, carry and cure ailments of their communities with astounding bravery, to wake up and be a different person, to change their lives and the lives around them.

ASCSC through AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and Disability Inclusion programs create improvements for Alaskans through network of support and opportunity, but more importantly the commission creates *Heroes*. I have seen it with my own eyes and feel it in my heart. Let's all continue to invest in community and citizen service in Alaska- services that truly do have priceless impact.

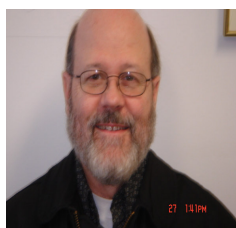


The Alaska State Community Service Commission (ASCSC) was created by Governor Walter J. Hickel to establish the state's eligibility to receive AmeriCorps funding. The State Commission is comprised of 19 members appointed by the Governor. The Director of the State CNCS office is an ex-officio member of the Commission. The Executive Director is chosen by the Governor and hired by the Commission of the Department of Commerce, Economic and Community Development. Other Commission staff is selected and hired by the Executive Director in consultation with the Commissioner of Commerce, Economic and Community Development as his/her designee. The composition of a Commission is legally constrained to ensure non-partisanship and political neutrality. The National and Community Service Trust Act and administrative regulations issued in conjunction with it specify requirements for balance in the Commission.

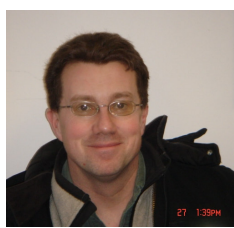
The Commission functions much like a board of directors of a non-profit organization. Within the parameters mandated by law, the Commission establishes the various goals and objectives for the mission of the organization. They also determine many of the policies and procedures that govern the way the Commission operates. The Commission provides guidance and oversight to the Executive Director and staff, who have day-to-day responsibility to implement those policies. Similar to non-profit boards, the Commission has developed a committee structure to address their various responsibilities and oversee the work of the Commission.

Based on population and funding availability, the Commission recommends formula and competitive applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service. Applications are selected based on their ability to address unmet community needs in education, public safety, disability inclusion, homeland security, faith based and community initiative, environment or other human needs. In the last eight years the Commission has served over 100 Alaskan communities.

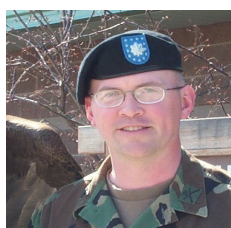
The Department of Commerce, Economic and Community Development houses the Commission and serve as its fiscal agent.



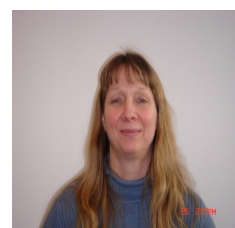
Mac Carter, Chair



John Bockman



Mike Bridges



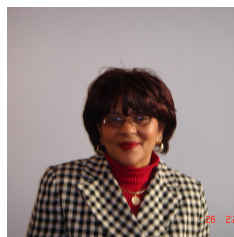
Kathleen Bugbee



Billie Joe Caldwell



Michelle Casey



Denise Henderson



Elaine Dahlgren



Clarisa Gillis



Dawn Grossmann



Wilson Justin



Ryan Kim



Denise Morris, Vice Chair



William Noll



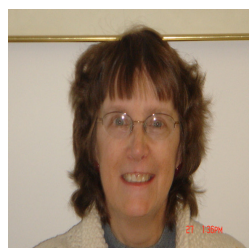
Greg O'Claray



Jessica Reed



Konney Shuey

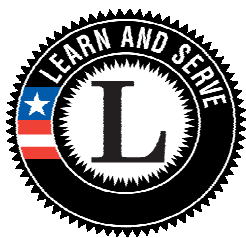


Sharon White-Wheeler



Dr. LaJuana K. William

**Sondra Meredith
Not shown**



Across America, Service-Learning is helping student perform better in school while improving their communities through service. By connecting classroom lessons with community service projects, service learning engage students and brings learning to life. For the 2004-2005 school year, ASCSC was able to support service-learning in five schools! These five sites generated the participation of over 75 adult volunteers, and engaged more than 530 youth in civic education activities. Accomplishments for the year:

Abbott Loop was able to implement the foundation phase of their two-way inclusion project, Disability Awareness. In the words of the project director, "capacity building projects included compassion and empathy building, character growth through mutual respect and responsibility (in serving the school and each other)."

Juneau School District continued to work with several schools and community organizations throughout this period. Among their highlights:

- 15 alternative high school students made clothes and blankets for needy families
- students conducted a needs survey of non-profits and wrote a feature article printed in the local newspaper
- a poetry slam was held to combat racism and bridge the gap between adult and youth
- students conducted an advanced level of water quality monitoring as part of a watershed protection project, giving them project management

Meggie Steinbeck, a Learn and Serve participant through Project Protect was awarded the ASCSC award, and attended the ceremony at the Governor's Mansion in Juneau. According to the program director, "this experience will lend to Maggie's decision to continue serving children in her adult career." She will help the project director to facilitate Project Protect in the coming year.



Girdwood School was named the "Outstanding Anchorage School Recycling Award" from ALPAR (Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling). Two parent volunteers, the school principal, and five student representatives were able to attend the event and speak about their efforts.



Sitka Community Schools conducted a Youth Risk Behavior Survey, raised money for the tsunami relief, and conducted Red and Yellow Ribbon Week projects (among other activities)! According to the project director, "these activities reached into all areas of the community and greatly increased the public's perception that there is a group of kids who are not afraid to take a stand against drugs and alcohol and who are willing to make Sitka a better place."

Thorne Bay reported that since the completion of the youth center in June of 2004, the community has begun to rally around it and make use of it more and more. Local schools and teachers use the facility for class projects and after-school activities, there has been an increase in community volunteers who man the site several days a week for craft activities and it has proved to meet its original goal of providing a safe place for youth!

AmeriCorps Members provide tutoring and small group instruction to enhance the literacy skills of children, youth, and adults in Anchorage and outlying communities. AmeriCorps Members also provide computers software skill development through tutoring and technological literacy with access for children, youth and adults in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods and communities throughout Alaska.



Success by Numbers...

- 608** ...youth and adults took one or more tests of the GED Test Battery.
- 387** ...youth and adults passed the GED Test Battery and received GED diplomas from the State of Alaska.
- 1,452** ...youth, adults, and senior citizens attended classes in reading and math review.
- 260** ...adults improved their understanding of the English language in ESL classes.
- 107** ...senior citizens participated in basic academics skills classes, computer skills classes, subsidized employment—and obtained employment at an average hourly rate of \$11.01 per hour.
- 72** ...younger children used computers to complete homework assignments, received tutoring, and went on field trips in the community.
- 816** ...unemployed adults with barriers to employment received job search assistance in Nine Star Career Development Centers.
- 3,980** ...children, youth, and adults received literacy and work readiness services in Anchorage and outlying communities.
- 24** ...adult volunteers recruited to assist in Nine Star's regular programs.
- 1700+** ...public assistance recipients and WIA youth received case management, work readiness, and job search assistance.
- 350** ...children, youth, and adults gained access to computers and instruction in their use.
- 65** ...adult volunteers recruited to assist in literacy and work readiness programs in outlying communities.

Three amazing RurAL Cap programs. RAVEN-YDA program AmeriCorps members offering a direct approach to assessing community needs, providing resources, leadership skills and improve environmental conditions. BIRCH is another program which AmeriCorps Members build local capacity for addressing health and wellness issues in rural communities. Also SIS in collaboration with the Department of Social Work Programs at UAA Fairbanks and the School of Nursing at UAA, AmeriCorps Education Award Members are placed with social service agencies to address unmet human needs in Alaskan communities.

Success by Numbers...



BIRCH, RAVEN, SIS AmeriCorps

938 community events, projects and activities were supported and sponsored by AmeriCorps members



2,802 community volunteers were recruited

21,115 hours of service were committed to community-based projects



26% increase in community involvement and activity from 2004

21,701 hours of service completed members



2,099 community volunteers recruited members

29,081 hours of service completed community volunteers

30,000 hours of service SIS members completed

RurAL CAP



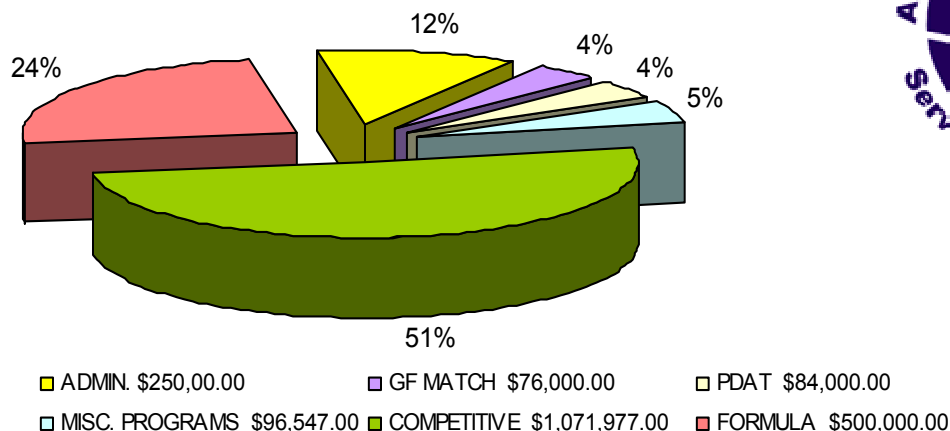


SAYC AmeriCorps Members engage Alaskan youth in team based service projects, such as projects of work on public and native lands, and provide opportunities for service learning. Another outstanding program YABAH utilizes talents of AmeriCorps Members to build homes for Native housing authorities and other construction projects. All members work on obtaining their GED and other valuable training to prepare them for future life events.

Success by Numbers...

- 110,419** Number of hours AmeriCorps members served
- 5000** Youth mentored by AmeriCorps members in 15 Alaskan communities
- 15** Alaskan city served
- 2** Low income homes built by YABAH AmeriCorps Members
- 50** Number of miles of improved highways and trails.
- 500** Involved in National Youth Service Day
- 2** AmeriCorps members went to New Orleans for a month hurricane relief service.





Alaska State Community Service Commission (ASCSC) receives Learn and Serve America Formula funding, AmeriCorps Formula, AmeriCorps Competitive, AmeriCorps Education Award Program, and Promise Fellows funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

The Corporation has two types of funding: formula and competitive. For both the formula and the competitive funds ASCSC is the grantee. ASCSC selects the sub-grant recipients through a Request for Proposal process. The applications undergo a peer review and recommendations are given to the commission for their approval. If the funds are formula, the commission selects the sub-recipients based on the funding allocations. If funds are competitive ASCSC forwards the selected applications onto CNCS for their review and selection process.

Other Corporation funding received by the ASCSC yearly are: Disability Grant, Program Development Assistance and Training Grant and Administrative Grant.

The federal grants received through CNCS funds are on a three-year grant cycle. A continuation application is required for year two and three. The other source of funds are State General Funds, Statutory Designated and Inter-agency Funds.

Priceless...Impact

Federal Funds received....
5,000,000 million to the state of Alaska

AmeriCorps Members.... Over 40,000 community hours served.

Recruitment.... 2,500 Volunteers who completed over 30,000 hours of community service.

Education & Work Development....
Over 9,000 Alaskans move toward work readiness and skills development.

Collected.... 45,742 pounds of litter, trash, for proper disposal.

More than **2,500** people of all ages and backgrounds are helping to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and increase civic engagement through 52 national service projects across Alaska. Serving with national and local nonprofits, school, faith-based organizations and other groups, these citizens tutor and mentor children, coordinate after-school programs, build homes, conduct neighborhood patrols restore the environment, respond to disaster, build nonprofit capacity and recruit and manage volunteers This year, the Corporation for National and Community Service will commit more than **\$6,800,000** to support Alaska communities through three national service initiatives



More than **640** seniors in Alaska contributed their time and talents in one of three Senior Corps Programs. Foster Grandparents serve one-on-one as tutors and mentors to more than 1,000 young people who have special needs. Senior Companions help more than **120** homebound seniors and other adults maintain independence in their own homes. Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteers conduct safety patrols for local police departments, participate in environmental projects, tutor and mentor youth, respond to natural disasters, and provide other services through more than **150** groups across Alaska.



This year AmeriCorps will provide more than **430** individuals the opportunity to provide intensive, results-driven service to meet education, environmental, public safety, and other pressing needs in communities across Alaska. Roughly three-quarters of all AmeriCorps grant funding goes to the Governor-appointed Alaska State Community Service Commission, which in turn awards grants to non profit groups to respond to local needs. Most of the remainder of the grant funding is distributed by the Corporation directly to multi-state and national organizations through a competitive grants process. Other individuals will serve through AmeriCorps*Vista, whose members help bring services, create businesses and increase housing opportunities, and AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) a 10 month, full time residential program for men and women between the ages of 18-24. In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps members earn an education award of up to \$4725 that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified students loans. Since 1994, more than **1,500** Alaska residents have qualified for AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than **\$4,800,000**.



Learn and Serve America provides grants to schools, colleges, and non profit groups to support efforts to engage more than **1,400** Alaska students in community service linked to academic achievements and the development of civic skills. This type of learning, called service learning, improves communities while preparing young people for a lifetime of responsible citizenship. In addition to providing grants, Learn and Serve America serves as a resource on service and service-learning to teachers, faculty members, schools and community groups.

Administrative Standards Review 2005

The Administrative Standards Review for the Alaska State Community Service Commission was held August 29th through September 2nd, 2005. A team of five members from the Corporation for National and Community Service arrived in Anchorage to conduct this intensive review. The purpose of the visit is for the team to get an extended picture of the Commission systems that relate to its grantees. The review team members conducted site visits and interviews. ASCSC Staff, ASCSC Commissioners, Department of Commerce Commissioner Noll, Alaska Fiscal Staff, Program Directors and stakeholders were involved in the review process.



Volunteer Awards recognize the efforts of Alaskan individual or organization who engages in unpaid volunteer activities within Alaska. These honorees have shown extraordinary personal commitment and have significant impact or benefit to their community and to the State of Alaska.



First Lady Nancy Murkowski & First Lady's Volunteer Awardees 2005

First Lady Nancy Murkowski presented 11 Alaskans with Volunteer of the Year Awards for outstanding volunteer service, at a luncheon in Anchorage on April 20. The winners were: (back row, L-R) Jonathon H. Lack of Anchorage, Austin Helmers of Palmer, Kristen Lee Hamerski of Anchorage, Bonnie Nichols of Soldotna, and Jeremy Donovan of Anchorage. (Front row, L-R) Diane Langfitt of Kodiak, Grace Merkes of Kenai, Marilyn Duggar of Nenana, First Lady Nancy Murkowski, Rose Cain of Fairbanks, and Lynne Ballew of Anchorage. Front row, Peter Jacob of Bethel. (Not pictured, Rick Langfitt of Kodiak.) "Alaskans are truly some of the most generous and energetic people I've ever seen, especially when it comes to helping out those in need in their own communities," said Mrs. Murkowski.



2005 Winter Summit ASCSC Awardees
Tom Schroeder, recipient of the Serving Alaskans Together Award; First Lady Nancy Murkowski; Meggie Steinbeck, Learn & Serve America; Marc Wheeler, AmeriCorps Alumni Award; Emily Beaulieu, AmeriCorps Award.

2005 Spring Summit Awardees

AmeriCorpsMember Award Recipients:

Cristian Núñez
American Red Cross of Alaska

Jessica Ceballos
NineStar Enterprises

Darlene Hunt
RurAL CAP

AmeriCorps Alumni Award Recipients:

Sylvana Szczesny
RurAL CAP

Iona (Krissy) Mahan
RurAL CAP

Mission & Measures

Increase communities volunteer participation throughout the State.

Ensure that national service and volunteer programs statewide are inclusive to individuals with disabilities.

Increase funding levels in order to ensure consistent support for sub-grantees.

Core Services

Collaborate in the development of public and private partnerships.

Support and provide volunteer opportunities through education, intergenerational service activities, and environmental

protections, and homeland securities, faith based and other community needs.

Provide guidance and service opportunities to young people, adults and seniors.

Ensure that national service and volunteer programs statewide are inclusive to individuals with disabilities.

Disability Inclusion Workshop.

Many individuals with disabilities are motivated to serve and do so successfully with appropriate outreach and recruitment, training and accommodations. The Alaska State Community Service Commission proudly announces a Disability Inclusion Workshop, an interactive two-day workshop designed to assist participants in developing the skills necessary to fully engage a variety of people with disabilities as service members and volunteers. Presenters from the National Service Inclusion Project will present information on several topics regarding creating inclusive environments, covering such topics as language and etiquette, outreach and recruitment, and reasonable accommodations.

2006 CALENDAR

January 16- Martin Luther King Service Day
23-24 NSIP Statewide Conference
25-26 Quarterly Commission mtg.

February- Grant and Peer Review mtg.

March 1- Nine Star site visit
2- RurAL CAP site visit

April 6-SAGA site visit, Juneau
7-Learn and Serve site visit, Juneau
21-23 National Youth Service Day
24-25 Volunteerism /FBCI Summit
25 Disability Strategic Planning
26-27 Quarterly Commission Mtg.

June 3- National Trails Day
17-20- Grantee Conference, Seattle

July 19- Commission Mtg. (teleconference)

September 24-National Public Lands Day
Program Directors Training

October 1- National Peer Helpers Day
19 Quarterly Commission Mtg.
28 Make A Difference Day

November – National Family Volunteer Day
Grants Processing

December– International Volunteer Day
Grants Processing

2006 Volunteerism Summit April 24-25, 2006



Photo Album of the Year 2005...



GOLD LEVEL



FRIENDSHIP LEVEL



Other Contributors

Lda Kat Naax Sati Yatx'l (All Nations) Dancers
Alyeska Pipeline
Friend of Alaska Library
Mac Carter
Dawn Grossman

Alaska Railroad Anchorage
Manila Realty
RurAL CAP
Denise Morris
Mike Bridges

THANK YOU!

The Alaska State Community Service Commission would like to express their utmost gratitude to the above mentioned sponsors. With their contributions volunteerism was made stronger in Alaska. Through the sponsorships volunteer training, recognition and volunteer opportunities were provided.



*Nancy Murkowski
Honorary Chair*

Alaska is well known for its volunteerism and civic participation. This is no small task. Many residents and businesses dedicate time and money to help those in need. Often the volunteerism is done quietly and without much fanfare. I want to offer my deepest thanks and appreciation for all Alaskans who have taken time to volunteer in the community.

Those who volunteer know it is not without its rewards. Please take time to share stories with friends, neighbors and coworkers about your volunteer experiences. Sometimes just hearing one special story will encourage others to get involved.

We are one Alaskan family—together we can build stronger and healthier communities throughout our State.

Contact Information...

Elsa Sargento, Executive Director
(907) 269-4659
Email: Elsa_Sargento@commerce.state.ak.us

Katie Eddy, Associate Coordinator
(907) 269-4674
Email: Katie_Eddy@commerce.state.ak.us

Didi Taylor, Administrative Assistant
(907) 269-4637 Fax: 269-5666
Email: Didi_Taylor@commerce.state.ak.us

Löki Gale Tobin, Disability Inclusion
(907) 269-7929 Fax: 269-5666
Email: inclusion@commerce.state.ak.us



ALASKA STATE COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMISSION
550 W. SEVENTH AVENUE, SUITE 1770
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

**For more information on grants and other opportunities,
Visit our website at: <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/ascsc/home.htm>**